



The PSC Pulse

COMMISSION FACES BUSY AND CHALLENGING YEAR



The Georgia Public Service Commission will face an unprecedented number of major proceedings and rate cases in 2019, beginning with the filing of Georgia Power Company’s Integrated Resource Plan on January 31, 2019. Both investor owned utilities, the Georgia Power Company and the Atlanta Gas Light Company, are expected to ask for increases in their base rates. The Commission will also continue to hold hearings on the Plant Vogtle Construction Monitoring Report and conduct hearings on the Atlanta Gas Light Company Capacity Supply Plan and Liberty Utilities’ Gas Supply Plan. Liberty Utilities, which serves customers in Columbus and Gainesville, is expected to file a base rate in early 2020 but the preliminary work will begin in 2019. “Our staff will be pushed and our staff will be challenged,” said Commission Chairman Lauren “Bubba” McDonald. “Our staff will be occupied with analyzing and reviewing these rate cases, supervising our outside consultants and preparing testimony for

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Commission Faces Busy Year
- Commissioners Take Oath of Office
- Georgia General Assembly Opens for Business
- Commission Staff Takes Part in NARUC Exchange Program
- Plant Vogtle Hearing
- Commission Holds Faithful Service Awards Luncheon

COMMISSIONERS TAKE OATH OF OFFICE



Commissioners Chuck Eaton and Tricia Pridemore took their ceremonial oaths of office during the January 14, 2019 Inaugural Ceremonies for Governor Brian Kemp. Commissioners Eaton and Pridemore and their families were on the official platform along with Commission Chairman McDonald, Vice-chairman Echols and Commissioner Shaw and their families.

YOUR PAY
State Employee W-2s
are now available on the
Teamworks web site:
[https://
hcm.teamworks.georgia
.gov/psp/empl/?
cmd=login](https://hcm.teamworks.georgia.gov/psp/empl/?cmd=login)



ECHOLS ANNOUNCES 2019 CLEAN ENERGY ROADSHOW



Commissioner Tim Echols will his 9th annual Clean Energy Roadshow this year, bringing his informative seminars on clean energy resources and alternative fuel vehicles across the state. This Roadshow tentative schedule is as follows:
August 27-Atlanta
August 28-Augusta
September 24-Albany
September 25-Macon
October 8-Savannah
October 16-Atlanta

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COMMISSIONER SHAW SWORN IN



Governor Nathan Deal administers the Oath of Office to Commissioner Shaw as his wife, Katy, and children Anne Harvey and Shelton look on.

Jason Shaw took part in his first Commission meeting on January 3, 2019 after his swearing in by Governor Nathan Deal. Deal appointed Shaw to fill the unexpired term of Doug Everett who retired as of December 31, 2018. Shaw is a native of Lanier County, Georgia in Commission District 1. Commissioner Shaw formerly represented Georgia House District 176 (Atkinson, Lanier, Lowndes and Ware counties) for four terms following his election in 2010 to the Georgia House of Representatives. In the House, he chaired the Legislative Rural Caucus and the House Appropriations Transportation Subcommittee.

2019 GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY OPENS



The 155th session of the Georgia General Assembly convened on Monday January 14, 2019 with a new Governor, new Lieutenant Governor and 40 freshmen in the House and Senate. The session, as prescribed by the State Constitution, lasts 40 days. This year's session is expected to last through March and probably into April. Among the top issues will be the state's Fiscal Year 2019 Amended Budget, the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget, along with rural broadband, rural health care and education.

Guiding the House will be Speaker David Ralston and Speaker Pro Tem Jan Jones while Lt. Governor Geoff Duncan presides over the Senate along with President Pro Tem Senator Butch Miller of Gainesville.

In his first State of the State Address to a Joint Session of the Legislature, Governor Brian Kemp proposed a \$3,000 salary increase for teachers and a two percent merit increase for state employees in the state's Fiscal Year 2020 Budget.

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the hearings. Our small staff of utility analysts and engineers as well as support will be incredibly busy.”

The anticipated cases are as follows:

Georgia Power Company Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). The Company is expected to file its forecast for the Company's projected energy resources needed to serve its customers for the next three years. Once the Commission determines the fee as allowed by statute (O.C.G.A. §46-3A-2(c)) the Commission has 120 days to render a decision.

Georgia Power rate case. The Company is expected to file its request for a change in its base rates on July 1, 2019. State law requires the Commission to issue a decision within six months. Georgia Power base rates have been frozen since 2014.

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COMMISSION CASE SCHEDULE FOR 2019

April

Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)-April 8-10

May

20th Vogtle Construction Monitoring (VCM) Plan

May 8-IRP May 13-16

June

IRP- June 11-12
VCM-June 27

August

20th VCM-August 1

September

AGL Rate Case-September 10-12

Liberty Utilities Gas Supply Plan-September 17
AGL Capacity Supply Plan -September 18

AGL Capacity Supply and Liberty Gas Plan, Special Administrative Session-September 26
Georgia Power (GPC) Rate Case-September 30

October

GPC Rate Case-October 1-2
AGL Rate Case-October 23-24

November

GPC Rate Case-November 4-6
21st VCM-November 12-13
AGL Rate Case-November 21-22
GPC Rate Case-November 25-26

December

21st VCM-December 11-12

**UTILITY STAFF
MEMBER SELECTED
FOR NARUC
INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAM**



Utility Analyst **Rob Trokey**, who is currently working in the Electric Unit, has been selected by NARUC to participate in the International Peer Review on Ancillary Services, Direct PPAs and Smart Grids March 10-15, 2019 in Hanoi, Vietnam.



NARUC
National Association of Regulatory
Utility Commissioners

For more information
check out the website:

[www.Cleanenergyroads
how.com](http://www.Cleanenergyroads
how.com)



**COMMISSION PIO PARTICIPATES IN PARTNER-
SHIP EXCHANGE WITH BANGLADESH ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION**



PIO Bill Edge (third from left) with Bangladesh partners and members of the NARUC delegation in Jakarta, Indonesia

Commission Public Information Officer **Bill Edge** took part in the NARUC sponsored Partnership Exchange with the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission in Jakarta, Indonesia October 22-25, 2018. The participants briefed the Bangladesh participants on Public Communications and Stakeholder Engagement, which included how Commissions engage stakeholders using the internet and communicate rate cases and Commission activities using all forms of communications. The Partnership is sponsored by NARUC and funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.



COMMISSION HOLDS ROUND TWO OF VOGTLE 19 HEARINGS

The Public Interest Advocate Staff presented their direct testimony on December 18, 2018 in round two of the 19th Vogtle Construction Monitoring Report. Staff witnesses Steve Roetger, Bill Jacobs, Shemetha Jones, Phil Hayet, Cary Cook, Donald Grace and Leah Wellborn testified in support of staff's filed testimony. The Commission is scheduled to issue its decision on February 19, 2019.

COMMISSION CELEBRATES HOLIDAYS AND PRESENTS FAITHFUL SERVICE AWARDS



Everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal following the Faithful Service Award Presentations

The Commission celebrated the holiday season and honored its long time employees on December 13, 2018 at its annual Holiday and Faithful Service Awards Luncheon. Commissioners delivered remarks and supervisors handed out the awards. Chairman McDonald and Commission Pridemore delivered greetings by video recording while Commissioner Chuck Eaton was the Master of Ceremonies. Former Commissioner Stan Wise came back to bring us his delicious turkey.

Then all joined in for a wonderful and sumptuous luncheon to cap off the celebration.

Those employees receiving the Faithful Service Awards were:
Ten Years: **Will Culbreath, David Lewis, Steven Roetger.**
Fifteen Years: **Tonika Starks**
Twenty Years: **Jada Brock, Nancy Gibson, Ann McCullough**
Twenty-five Years: **Sheree Kernizan, Dorothy Buckner, Nancy Tyer, Jamie Barber**



Former Commissioner Stan Wise (left) and Consumer Affairs Representative Lisa Jensen make last minute checks of the lunch spread



CONSUMER AFFAIRS MANAGER MAKES PRESENTATION AT ANNUAL HEAT MEETING



PSC Consumer Affairs Manager **Claudette Willingham (above)** gave a presentation on how the Commission functions and can assist consumers during the annual meeting of H.E.A.T. on November 7, 2018. H.E.A.T. stands for Heat Energy Assistance Team and is funded through check off contributions on their natural gas bills through the natural gas marketers, Liberty Utilities and the municipal gas systems. Atlanta Gas Light Company President Brian Batson presented a check for \$100,000 to be used for heating assistance for this winter season.



STATE HOLIDAYS 2019

January 1-New Year's Day
January 19-State Holiday-(will be observed on Friday, November 29)
January 21-Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
February 18-Washington's Birthday (will be observed on Tuesday, December 24)
April 22-State Holiday
May 27-Memorial Day
July 4-Independence Day
September 2-Labor Day
October 14-Columbus Day
November 11-Veterans Day
November 28-Thanksgiving Day
December 25-Christmas Day

OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER

February 14-Valentine's Day
March 6-Ash Wednesday
March 10-Daylight Saving Times begins
April 14-Palm Sunday
April 19-Good Friday
April 21-Easter Sunday
June 6-D-Day
June 14-Flag Day
September 11-Patriots' Day
October 31-Halloween
November 1-All Saints Day
November 3-Daylight Saving Time ends
December 7-Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

COMMISSION SENDS OLDER VEHICLES TO SURPLUS



In Fiscal Year 2018, the Facilities Protection Unit purchased and received 12 new vehicles for the Pipeline Safety Inspectors. These vehicles replaced twelve existing vehicles that were sent to surplus. The surplus vehicles included six 2011 Chevrolet Tahoe's, two 2010 Ford Crown Victoria's and four 2008 Chevrolet Impalas. All twelve vehicles were towed from the South Deck Parking to an auction yard.

The new fleet is doing great and providing our staff with reliable transportation so they can travel throughout the state to perform their duties.

COMMISSION FACES BUSY YEAR

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Georgia Power Vogle Construction Monitoring (VCM) Report. The Company is expected to file its 20th VCM Report on February 28, 2019.

Atlanta Gas Light Company (AGLC) rate case. AGLC is expected to file a base rate case on August 1, 2019. AGLC has not filed a base rate case since 2010.

Both the AGL Capacity Supply Plan and Liberties Utilities Gas Supply Plan. These are plans that detail how the utilities will ensure natural gas customers in Georgia have adequate supplies of natural gas to meet their needs. These cases will be heard in the fall of 2019. Liberty Utilities is expected to file a rate case on February 1, 2020.

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY!**



20 YEARS
Jeff Stair
Attorney



5 YEARS
Faith Henning
Executive
Assistant

CONGRATULATIONS!

**PRIDEMORE SERVES
ON KEMP
TRANSITION TEAM**



Commissioner Tricia Pridemore served on Governor-elect Brian Kemp's transition team.

NEW BEGINNINGS

Congratulations to Irma Ormeno who gave birth to a healthy 8 pounds 6 ounce baby boy. Santiago Ormeno was born on Saturday, January 12, 2019. Mother and baby are doing well.

FAREWELL



Phil Smith who retired from the Commission on March 31, 2018. Phil served as an Attorney and had been with the Commission since 1982.

FAREWELL TO COMMISSIONER EVERETT



Chairman McDonald regales the group with his remembrances as Commissioner Everett and wife Janice look on

Friends and Commissioners gathered to wish farewell to retiring Commissioner Doug Everett before his last Administrative Session on December 18, 2018. Everett retired from the Commission on December 31, 2018 after serving 16 years on the Commission. He and his wife Janice will live in Albany. Everett has been in public service for more than 40 years, serving on the Albany City Commission and three terms in the Georgia House of Representatives

before being elected to the Commission in 2002. He won re-election in 2008 and 2014 by more than 60 percent of the vote. He was a past President of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. We wish Commissioner Everett and Janice all the best in retirement!



The gathering bids a fond farewell to Commissioner Everett and Janice

COMMISSION CALENDAR

February 2019

5—Administrative Session
 10-13—NARUC
 14—Committee Meetings
 18—Washington’s Birthday
 19-Administrative Session
 28-Committee Meetings

March 2019

5—Administrative Session
 10-Daylight Saving Time begins
 14—Committee Meetings
 17 — St. Patrick’s Day 
 19-Administration Session
 28-Committee Meetings

April 2019

2—Administration Session
 11-Committee Meetings
 16-Administration Session
 21-Easter
 22-State Holiday
 May 2-Committee Meetings

HOLIDAYS COMING UP!



Monday, April 22



Monday, May 27



Thursday, July 4

Georgia Public Service Commission

**244 Washington Street
 Atlanta, Georgia 30334
 Phone: 404-651-4501
 Fax: 404-656-2341
 www.psc.state.ga.us**



COMMISSIONERS

**Lauren “Bubba” McDonald, Chairman
 Tim G. Echols, Vice Chair
 Chuck Eaton
 Tricia Pridemore
 Jason Shaw**

The Public Information Office publishes The PSC Pulse for the Georgia Public Service Commission. Information for The PSC Pulse should be sent to the attention of **Bill Edge, Public Information Officer**

**Executive Director: Deborah Flannagan
 Executive Secretary: Reece McAlister**